



Washington State Legislature

December 9, 2011

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Governor of the State of Washington
Office of the Governor
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW, Suite 200
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Consortium to construct new 144-car ferry (URGENT, time-sensitive request)

Dear Governor Gregoire:

As legislators with constituents and constituent businesses in the Tacoma area, we wrote Secretary Hammond in June to remind her of the explicit actions of the legislature and of your own personal involvement in securing an agreement by three shipyards – Todd Pacific (Seattle), Martinac (Tacoma), and Nichols Brothers (Whidbey) – to participate in a consortium to begin building a new, 144-car ferry. Long delayed, it is important to all our ferry communities that construction of the first boat, which has been fully funded by the legislature, begin immediately.

The concerns which led to our June letter are now urgent. As we understand it, a recent letter from Vigor (the privately held, Portland-based successor to Todd Pacific) informs consortium partner Martinac that they are to be dropped from the consortium effective Tuesday, December 13. As we understand it, that letter and corroborating information from various industry contractors indicates that Vigor plans to move the Martinac work – originally scoped to be about 25% of the total work package – to a Vigor-owned shipyard with some of the work to be done by workers imported from Portland, Oregon. This would appear to controvert our build-in-Washington policy.

As you know, Martinac is a third-generation shipbuilder with a highly skilled workforce currently delivering a series of large, high-tech tugboats to the U.S. Navy. The Navy has repeatedly praised Martinac for exceptionally high quality, cost-conscious work.

We ask your immediate, personal intervention to assure that the specific intent of the legislature and of your own negotiations creating the consortium are carried out. This means well over one hundred good jobs in Pierce County alone and the continued viability of our state's shipbuilding industry.

At our invitation, Pierce County Executive McCarthy joins us in this request.

Sincerely,

Larry Seaquist
State Representative
26th Legislative District

Derek Kilmer
State Senator
26th Legislative District

Jan Angel
State Representative
26th Legislative District

Debbie Regala
State Senator
27th Legislative District

Jeannie Darneille
State Representative
27th Legislative District

Steve Kirby
State Representative
29th Legislative District

Governor Christine Gregoire
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Connie Ladenburg
State Representative
29th Legislative District



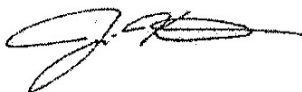
Cathy Dahlquist
State Representative
31st Legislative District



Randi Becker
State Senator
2nd Legislative District



Jim McCune
State Representative
2nd Legislative District



Jim Kastama
State Senator
25th Legislative District



Hans Zeiger
State Representative
25th Legislative District



Pat McCarthy
County Executive
Pierce County

Encl: June 29th letter

CC:

Paula Hammond, WSDOT Secretary
David Moseley, WSDOT Assistant Secretary
Brian Sonntag, Washington State Auditor
Speaker Frank Chopp
Representative Judy Clibborn, House Transportation Chair
Senator Mary Margaret Haugen, Senate Transportation Chair
Tim Sekerak, House Counsel



Washington State Legislature

June 29, 2011

Paula Hammond
Secretary of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
P.O. Box 47300
Olympia, WA 98504-7300

RE: Consortium to construct new 144-car ferry

Dear Secretary Hammond:

As legislators with constituents and businesses in the Tacoma area, we look forward to what is understood to be an announcement of the beginning of construction of a new 144-car class of ferries by a consortium of Washington state shipbuilders. Recalling the explicit actions by the legislature to authorize a consortium and by the Governor to secure agreement by Todd Pacific, Martinac, and Nichols to form that consortium, we look forward to the Department continuing to take the lead in seeing this innovative approach result in an early start of building our next major series of ferries.

We await the details of the contract budget and building plan.

Sincerely,

Larry Seaquist
State Representative
26th Legislative District

Jan Angel
State Representative
26th Legislative District

Derek Kilmer
State Senator
26th Legislative District

Laurie Jenkins
State Representative
27th Legislative District

Tami Green
State Representative
28th Legislative District

Connie Ladenburg
State Representative
29th Legislative District

CC:

Governor Christine Gregoire
David Moseley, WSDOT Assistant Secretary
Speaker Frank Chopp
Representative Judy Clibborn, House Transportation Chair
Senator Mary Margaret Haugen, Senate Transportation Chair
Tim Sekerak, House Counsel